THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) According to information received from the Government of Punjab, a spy ring was busted in Gurdaspur district in the last week of June, 1988. A case under section 3 of the Official Secrets Act, section3/4 of the Terrorist and Disruptive Activities (Prevention) Act and other provisions of law has been registered at PS Narrot Jaimal Singh, district Gurdaspur. Soven persons including two serving defence personnel have so far been arrested in this case.

Anti-terrorist cell in the Capital

787. DR. ABRAR AHMED KHAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to establish a new Anti Terrorist Cell in the Capital to combat the menace of terrorism more effectively; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) A proposal has been received from Delhi Administration in July, 1988 for strengthening of the Operational Cell dealing with terrorists. The proposal envisages creation of additional posts and purchase of vehicles/equipment.

Message of Harijans in Bihar

788. SHRI RAM AWADESH SINGH:
SHRI ISH DUTT YADAV:
SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY:
KUMARI SHUSHILA TIRIA:
SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK:
SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:
SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA:
SHRI SOHAN LAL DHUSIYA:
SHRI VITHAL RAO MADHAV RAO JADHAV:
SHRI HARI SINGH:
SHRI SHARAD YADAV:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the recent massacre of Harijans in Jehanabad, Bihar;

(b) if so, whether Government have obtained any factual report in this regard from the Bihar Government; and

(c) if the answer to part (b) above be in the affirmative, what are the details thereof stating the reaction of the Central Government with regard thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) A statement containing the information is attached.

Statement

In Bihar on the night intervening 16/71 June, 1988, 16 Harijans in village Nonhi and 2Harijans in village Nagwan of P.S. Tako, district Jehanabad were murdered. In addition 11 other persons including 7 children and 2 women were also injured in this incident. The deceased were fast asleep in their houses at the time of the incident.

2. Next of the kin of the deceased were given monetary relief of Rs. 20,000. An assistance of Rs. 1,000 was given to 8 seriously injured persons and Rs. 500 to the remaining 3 less injured persons. Each affected family was provided two weeks ration and other assistance in the shape of clothes and utensils etc. In all 8 persons related to the deceased have also been given employment as relief and rehabilitation measure. Pension has also been sanctioned to 11 affected families under the Social Security Scheme. An approach road to the village is also being constructed for the purpose of providing wage employment to the members of the affected families who could not be given regular wage employment. Forty houses are being constructed under the Indira Housing Scheme for the affected families.

3. Till now, 11 of the accused including 4 out of 6 FIR accused have been arrested. Charge sheet has been filed against them on 8-7-1988. In respect of remaining 2 FIR accused and 7 non-FIR accused, action regarding attachment of their moveable property has been taken. For expeditious disposal of the cases, the High Court has been moved to earmark a special court at Jehanabad for this purpose. Two full Sections of Armed forces were stationed in Nonhi village and one full Section in Nagwan village for effective mobile patrolling and for the arrest of the accused persons. Magistrates and Police officials were also stationed at both the villages with wireless communication.

4. A special drive has been launched to curb the left wing extremism in Jehanabad district and 11 companies of Bihar Military Police (BMP) and one company of CRPF have been deployed under one Commandant and 8 DSPs for this purpose. This special drive is being directed by DIG Aurangabad and absconders and Naxalites are being arrested and unlicenced weapons are being unearthed. Since January, 1988 more than 150 extremists have been arrested under this drive along with seizure of substantial quantity of illegal weapons and ammunition.

5. The Central Government has given a serious thought to causes leading to atrocities and crimes against Harijans. Among Scheduled Caste workers 48% are agricultural labourers and wherever they assert their rights to minimum wages or crop share fixed by law, atrocities are perpetrated upon them. Comprehensive guidelines suggesting different precautionary, preventive, punitive, rehabilitative and personnel policy measures which are required to be taken in such cases have been formulated and conveyed to all State Governments in 1980 and reiterated from time to time. The State Government of Bihar has been asked to streamline its policing and intelligence collection machinery to prevent the recurrence of atrocities on weaker sections.

Abolition of support price for raw Jute

789. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal is under Government's consideration for the abolition of minimum support price for raw jute;

(b) whether it is a fact that of late there has been a major set-back in the offtake of jute goods, both in domestic and export markets;

(c) if so, what is the extent thereof; and

(d) what steps are proposed to be taken to control the situation?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Of late, there has been an improvement in the off-take of jute